United Nations A/56/803–S/2002/135

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 31 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to alert you to the fact that the letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (A/56/778-S/2002/79) conveys many misconceptions and tries to invoke international law in order to provide cover for the continuing Israeli intrusions on Lebanese sovereignty in the air, on land and at sea that are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of the Blue Line established by the United Nations.

It is disturbing that the Israeli violations and incursions have begun to escalate. There have been more than 3,000 since June 2000, and in December alone there were more than 75. The sound barrier has repeatedly been broken in provocative overflights by Israeli warplanes in which some dozens of aircraft often take part in a single operation. This alarms the civilian population, especially blameless children at school, and causes serious damage to property.

These Israeli incursions and violations are a source of tension in the region. They are unjustified provocations, as was stated in your most recent report to the Security Council. With them, Israel is seeking to undermine the stability that prevails in Lebanon's various regions. They occur in the context of the serial violence that it wrongfully commits on a daily basis in the occupied Palestinian territories while seeking to ignore the agreements signed and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

It is useful to recall that full withdrawal from Lebanon would require withdrawal from Lebanon's airspace and territorial waters as well as from the remaining occupied Lebanese territory. It would also require the provision of all maps of minefields and records of their location, a halt to outrages against civilians and the release of detainees being held without trial.

The resolutions of the Security Council and the principles of international law make it incumbent on Israel to halt its incursions, violations and infringements rather than to use these resolutions and principles to obscure the facts and incite the international community against Lebanon in the name of combating terrorism.

02-23916 (E) 010202 010202

Lebanon has condemned all forms of terrorism, and its laws and statutes impose the severest of penalties on perpetrators of terrorist acts. There is, however, a dividing line between legitimate resistance to occupation and terrorism. Resistance to occupation is self-defence and territorial defence, and it is a right that is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

It would be better for Israel to desist from its oppression and arrogance and to comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principles of international law instead of continuing to occupy the territory of others and to violate their rights in open defiance of international humanitarian law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/804

General Assembly

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31 January 2002
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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 44
The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 30 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Political Agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the associations representing the war wounded and disabled, adopted in San Salvador on 18 December 2001 (see annex). This fulfils the last commitment outstanding for the full implementation of the El Salvador peace agreements.

In this connection, I should be grateful if you would have the text of the Political Agreement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(*Signed*) José Roberto **Andino Salazar**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-23940 (E) 070202 070202

Annex to the letter dated 30 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Instrument of Agreement

The Government of El Salvador and the associations representing the war wounded and disabled are signing this Agreement in order to remedy the shortcomings of the Fund for the Protection of the War Wounded and War Disabled and solve this problem once and for all as the only outstanding aspect of the peace agreements; accordingly, they agree as follows:

1. Immediately to restructure the Board of Directors of the Fund, with respect to both its membership and its operation, in order to ensure that it is managed in a fully efficient and representative manner.

2. To grant legal personality to the Association of War Wounded of El Salvador (ALGES) in accordance with the law, in order to enable it to participate in the relevant administrative bodies of the Fund.

3. To amend the operations of the Technical Evaluation Commission, replacing its current function of direct and exclusive medical evaluation by a procedure incorporating the following phases and tasks:

(a) Referral of cases to specialists;

(b) Adoption of decisions on the basis of the corresponding medical reports, including diagnoses by various specialists when cases so warrant;

(c) Recording and monitoring of the development of disabilities;

(d) Review of its decisions in cases where beneficiaries dispute medical reports.

The Fund shall determine independently the pool of specialists necessary to carry out full medical evaluations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertakes to arrange with the Governments of Spain and Mexico the provision of doctors who can act as permanent advisers to the Evaluation Commission.

The management shall adopt the necessary administrative measures in keeping with decisions of the Technical Evaluation Commission.

The Board of Directors of the Fund shall be the body of last resort to hear and rule on appeals disputing the technical decisions of the Evaluation Commission or the administrative decisions of the management.

4. To alter the role and functions of the Oversight Board and the Investments Committee under the law in force, merging them as functions and obligations of a financial management committee which shall advise the Board of Directors of the Fund.

5. War-wounded persons whose disability falls within a range of 60 per cent to 100 per cent shall be entitled to special benefits and allowances according to their medical treatment needs and the non-recurring expenses arising from their injuries. The Fund shall determine in each case the amount, duration or type of special benefits and allowances and shall pay them from its regular budget.

6. The law shall be amended to provide expressly that, in the event of the death of a beneficiary, his or her pension shall be transferred to any minor children.

7. The following guidelines shall be adopted increasing the number of wounded and disabled persons covered by the Fund:

(a) Applications shall be receivable within a firm and definitive time limit of six months;

(b) Applications shall be submitted to the Fund individually;

(c) Applicants shall be obliged to fulfil all the requirements established by law;

(d) As prescribed in the current regulations, the Fund shall have a maximum of 60 working days in which to rule on the validity of applications, following evaluation of the relevant supporting documentation;

(e) Cases that are of a strictly exceptional nature, owing to the subsequent appearance of effects of war wounds, shall not be subject to the provisions of subparagraph (a);

(f) New beneficiaries shall be entitled to the pensions and benefits awarded to them from the date on which they are entered in the register of the Fund;

(g) In the event of increases in the amount of the minimum wage, the pensions of war-wounded persons shall be adjusted automatically;

(h) With a view to ensuring that benefits go only to the population that is intended to benefit from the present Agreement, it is understood that that population shall in no case exceed 3,000 persons, who shall include members of the armed forces, of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) and of the civilian population who were directly affected by the armed conflict, provided that they have not already been assisted by the Fund for the Protection of the War Wounded and War Disabled.

8. In the case of wounded and disabled persons, appeals for a change of status from that of a person entitled to compensation to that of pensioner, following the review of a medical report, shall be filed in accordance with the procedures in force, without requiring amendments to the law or the regulations.

9. The expansion of the number of family members of deceased combatants eligible to receive benefits (minor children or elderly parents) shall be carried out in accordance with the following procedure:

(a) The legal associations representing war-wounded persons shall submit the corresponding preliminary lists to UNDP within one month. After that time, the lists of family members potentially eligible for benefits shall be definitively closed;

(b) The Fund, under a technical assistance project requested from UNDP, shall, within two months, carry out a census of everyone on the lists. The census shall cover:

(i) The number of beneficiary minor children or elderly parents for each deceased combatant;

(ii) The number of deceased combatants per beneficiary family member;

(iii) Supporting documentation available at the time of the census;

(iv) Relevant socio-economic information;

(v) Cross-checking with lists of current beneficiaries to eliminate double recording;

(c) On the basis of the census, the Fund, with the assistance requested from UNDP, shall draw up the comprehensive list of family members eligible for the expansion of the number of beneficiaries of the Fund;

(d) The eligible family members shall submit the relevant supporting documentation to the Fund, annexed to their individual applications;

(e) The Fund shall evaluate the documentation and enter the new beneficiaries in the database;

(f) The procedure shall be completed before the end of 2002.

10. The Fund undertakes to assist from its regular budget, as soon as they are accepted in the register of beneficiaries, newly added family members whose personal and economic situation is most critical.

For the purposes of determining the situation referred to in the preceding paragraph, UNDP was requested, through a specific technical assistance project, to make a socio-economic study of the individual family members and of the family as a whole; it shall submit its recommendations to the Fund. The purpose of this provision shall be to place the solution of the problem in its true humanitarian dimension. The study shall look at, in particular:

(a) The number of employed children, in the case of parents;

(b) The parents' employment or other sources of income;

(c) The parents' age and health;

(d) The current means of support of minor children.

It is understood that priority shall be given to the oldest or sickest parents, with the least possibilities of alternative means of support, and to minor children whose surviving family members are living in the greatest poverty.

The remaining family members entered as new beneficiaries in the Fund's database shall gradually begin to receive assistance from 2003 onwards, using the resources of the trust fund to be established for that purpose as an additional medium- and long-term solution to the overall problem of the war wounded and their family members.

11. The trust fund referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be created by the Fund or by the most appropriate body during the first quarter of 2002. For that purpose, the Government of El Salvador undertakes to begin immediately the necessary procedures for obtaining external cooperation resources and to find the most appropriate ways of investing non-recurring national funds in the trust fund. An effort shall be made to ensure that both foreign and national contributions to the trust fund shall constitute a long-term financial asset. The Fund may secure other donations, either internationally or from the Salvadoran private sector.

12. In anticipation of the possible need for budgetary support for the Fund, a special account, to be administered by UNDP at the request of the Government of El Salvador, shall be opened as a means of guaranteeing that the cost of additional benefits will be covered. With the agreement of donors, the first US$ 3 million of foreign cooperation funds intended for the trust fund shall be deposited in that account. If there is no need to use the special account for the purpose mentioned in the first two years, its funds shall be transferred to the trust fund.

13. In order to ensure that FMLN war wounded are duly representative for the purposes of their participation in the Board of Directors or in other administrative bodies of the Fund, agreement shall be reached among the various legal associations approved and convened in each case by the Minister of the Interior. In any case, the Minister shall be required to ensure that representation is exercised by the association with the largest number of members and beneficiaries of the Fund. For that purpose, he shall consult the register of non-profit associations and foundations kept by the Ministry and the registers of the Fund.

14. The terms of this Agreement shall be embodied, as appropriate, in an amendment to the Benefit Act for the Protection of the War Wounded and Disabled. The Government of El Salvador undertakes to do its utmost to expedite the adoption of the amendment during the last session of the Legislative Assembly this year.

15. The associations of war wounded undertake formally to request FMLN and all the political parties to support the present Agreement as a satisfactory solution for the beneficiaries of the Fund and as a definitive solution to this aspect of peace agreements.

San Salvador, 18 December 2001

For the Government:

(*Signed*) María Eugenia **Brizuela de Avila**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

(*Signed*) Jorge **Nieto Menéndez**
Minister of Labour and Social Security

For the associations of war wounded and disabled ALFAES, COMITEH, ALGES, PODES, ALFES, FUNDELIDDI, Cooperativa Nueva Vida, Cooperativa Buen Futuro:

(*Signed*) José **Gerbacio Ayala**
(*Signed*) Jesús **Avalos Escobar**
(*Signed*) Miriam Ruth **Amaya**
(*Signed*) José Ricardo **Guerra**
(*Signed*) Miguel Angel **Aquino**
(*Signed*) Luis Enrique **Salazár**

Honorary witness, UNDP
Officer-in-charge
(*Signed*) Elizabeth **Hayek Weinmann**

United Nations A/56/805

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 115
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 31 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the declaration adopted at the close of the first specialized meeting on child trafficking in West and Central Africa, held at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, from 8 to 10 January 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 115.

(*Signed*) Philippe D. **Djangoné-Bi**
Permanent Representative

02-24113 (E) 070202 070202

Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

Yamoussoukro Declaration on child trafficking and exploitation in West and Central Africa

Adopted at the close of the first specialized meeting on child trafficking in West and Central Africa (8 to 10 January 2002, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire)

The Minister for Families, Women and Children of Côte d'Ivoire, the Minister for Families, Social Welfare and Solidarity of Benin, the Minister for Social Action and National Solidarity of Burkina Faso, the Minister for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families of Mali, delegates from West and Central African States, and representatives of the following international organizations: the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Office/International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme/Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP/UNDCP), representatives of the German, French and Italian bilateral cooperation agencies, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations,

Gathered at Yamoussoukro from 8 to 10 January 2002 for the first specialized meeting on child trafficking and exploitation in West and Central Africa, under the high patronage and with the active participation of His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and organized jointly by the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Interpol,

Aware that the emergence and development of the phenomenon of child trafficking and exploitation in all its forms and for whatever purpose constitutes a new form of crime,

Aware of the serious traumas that affect child victims of trafficking and their families,

Mindful that many West and Central African States have inadequate legislation, ill-suited to provide specific protection for children against trafficking and its consequences,

Mindful that the phenomenon of child trafficking results mainly from the poverty of their population,

Concerned at the exploitation, abuse and sometimes inhuman treatment of all child victims of trafficking in their respective countries,

Concerned at some countries' failure to ratify and delay in implementing regional and international instruments for the protection of the rights of children, including International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,

Convinced of the necessity of providing training to personnel of the security forces, the judiciary and all actors in the area of child protection,

Convinced that children are the builders of tomorrow's nations and the bearers of hope for the future,

Recognizing the importance of the role of Interpol in combating transnational crime in general and child trafficking in particular,

Recognizing the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations in the protection, care and rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking,

Noting the urgency of adopting regional initiatives for the well-being of children,

1. Undertake to conduct synchronized campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers to which children are exposed;

2. Undertake to establish rehabilitation and educational programmes to promote the reintegration of children in their communities;

3. Agree to adopt, amend and harmonize existing national legislation to combat child trafficking and exploitation;

4. Undertake to work towards the prompt ratification of international instruments for the benefit of children;

5. Request all States to take all necessary measures for the implementation and enforcement of these instruments;

6. Invite Governments and development partners to incorporate in their national poverty eradication programmes a section on the protection and promotion of the rights of children;

7. Propose that States introduce an official travel document allowing the free movement of children;

8. Agree to incorporate or strengthen programmes to train personnel of the security forces, the judiciary and all actors in the protection of children and the promotion of their rights;

9. Encourage States to establish a national database containing disaggregated criminal data on child trafficking and exploitation with the support of organizations specializing in the field, including Interpol, UNICEF, IOM, ILO/IPEC and UNDCP/ODCCP;

10. Undertake to promote exchanges of criminal intelligence and information concerning child trafficking and exploitation between the national and international agencies responsible for suppression and law enforcement;

11. Undertake to collaborate closely with non-governmental organizations and all actors working for the protection and, specifically, the rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking by ensuring swift repatriation procedures and by providing substantial support;

12. Agree on the importance of signing a subregional agreement involving all West and Central African countries in combating child trafficking and exploitation;

13. Agree on the need to establish in each State committees to combat child trafficking and exploitation;

14. Agree to establish a biennial rotating meeting of ministers on child trafficking and exploitation with a preparatory meeting of experts to be held in the host country;

15. Entrust the host country of the next meeting and Interpol with the task of initiating and organizing the said meetings in collaboration with UNICEF, IOM and ILO/IPEC;

16. Invite the international community to assist States, civil society and national non-governmental organization s in implementing these recommendations.

Yamoussoukro, 10 January 2002

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Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

The situation in the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 3 February 2002 from Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you, concerning unfounded allegations levelled by the President of the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran in his State of the Union address (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42, 77, 81 and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-24160S (E) 060202

Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the State of the Union address by the President of the United States on 29 January 2002 and express grave disappointment about its overall approach, as well as strong indignation about the parts in which unfounded allegations were made against my country or where the President used profanity when referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran. That these remarks were intended for domestic politics and seeking to substantially increase military spending in the United States are no justification for misrepresenting historic facts and events and one cannot but reject them as diversionary sensationalism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is disappointed by the overall approach of the United States because, by promoting a self-centred, unilateral and naïve policy, which focuses only on the threat or use of force against what the United States has arrogated to itself to call terrorism, and leaving the self-evident global realities as well as the root causes of terrorism to the abyss, it tends to derogate from the cherished global momentum against this global menace. This United States policy undermines the global resolve to embark on a real and comprehensive war on terrorism. We are at the crossroads of history; a golden opportunity has presented itself to the international community to mobilize itself against violence and terrorism, which we shall seize with vision and foresight rather than unilateral, divisive, self-centred and provocative statements and actions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes that to seek freedom, justice and security for all requires realism and a multidisciplinary approach, developed in a deliberative process at the United Nations, to fight terrorism in all its forms. In this connection, immediately after the tragedy of 11 September, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the convening of a global summit to eradicate terrorism and the Islamic Republic of Iran made further practical proposals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to seize the momentum and help develop such a global and comprehensive approach to fight terrorism. We continue to be convinced that only such a comprehensive approach to fighting terrorism serves the interests of each and every nation on the globe. We stand ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General in such an endeavour.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a victim of international terrorism, has engaged actively in combating this menace. Iran was the first country to recognize and to warn the international community against the threat of terrorism and narcotic trafficking emanating from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and contributed in a most crucial manner to the emergence of the new reality in Afghanistan and the establishment of the Interim Administration. Furthermore, following the tragic events of 11 September, Iran has taken extensive measures to prevent infiltration and transit of terrorists into and through its territory.

The President of the United States accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of seeking weapons of mass destruction. It is ironic that a United States administration that has systematically engaged in the dismantling and undermining of all international regimes against weapons of mass destruction takes the liberty of levelling unfounded accusations against one of the foremost advocates of such international regimes.

It is indeed the United States that blocked the finalization of the protocol strengthening the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, and whose total rejection of any multilateral approach during the Fifth Review Conference prevented the conference from reaching any result. It is the United States that is engaged in a systematic attempt to undermine the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It is this very administration that has made the unilateral withdrawal from the ABM and rejection of CTBT as its most important crusade. And it is in fact the United States that has provided unreserved support and assistance to the arming of Israel, which is "the most dangerous regime" in the region and which routinely commits state-terrorism, including through assassinations, abductions and destruction of entire villages to terrorize ordinary civilians, with "the most destructive weapons" of mass destruction.

In short, this administration has made it abundantly clear that it does not seek transparent and rule-based multilateral regimes on weapons of mass destruction and wishes to remain unhindered not only in developing and proliferating such weapons but more dangerously in levelling self-serving accusations against others.

The Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek weapons of mass destruction and, unlike the United States ally in this region, is a party to the NPT, CWC and BWC and has signed the CTBT. As the only victim of weapons of mass destruction in the last generation, the Iranian people have felt the horror of these weapons and are determined to ensure that no other people will have to go through the same agony. We intend to pursue this objective by advocating and promoting a world free from all these inhuman weapons.

It must be underlined that, unlike the United States, weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's defence doctrine. Iran is fully committed to observing all relevant international instruments on prohibition of such weapons and its compliance has been repeatedly verified by the relevant international organizations. At the same time, Iran insists and vigorously pursues its inalienable right to develop its nuclear, chemical and biological industries for peaceful purposes. This right is guaranteed in all relevant international instruments and the deliberate campaign by the United States to arbitrarily deprive Iran of this right is a further violation of these regimes.

What needs to be investigated is the background for the sudden change in tone and approach of the United States officials. The massive misinformation campaign of lies and deception by Israel against Iran since 11 September and the public gloating of victory by various Israeli officials after the State of the Union address demonstrate the success of the current Israeli regime in highjacking the anti-terrorism efforts and changing it to unconditional United States support for occupation, brutal suppression and unbridled state terrorism against Palestinian people.

The United States support for the current Israeli policy is a strategic blunder. The Middle East crisis cannot be resolved with the use of force and repression and without the restoration of the inherent rights of the Palestinian nation, including its right to self-determination. The President of the United States must at least respect his own words in the same address and recognize that the Palestinian people have the same rights "unchanging for all people everywhere, ... the non-negotiable demands of human dignity, the rule of law, limits on the power of the State, respect

for women, private property, free speech, equal justice and religious tolerance". If "America will take the side of brave men and women who advocate these values around the world including the Islamic world", then American officials should do the same and avoid arbitrarily labelling as terrorists the very groups who struggle to secure these values including their human dignity and liberating their land from Israeli occupation.

By calling such groups and those who provide them with moral and political support terrorists or sponsors of terrorism, the United States is confronting the entire Islamic world, which has repeatedly and expressly condemned such attributions, including in the declarations of the Emergency Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on 10 October and 10 December 2001, and considers such accusations as the most pivotal impediment to a global fight against terrorism.

President Bush asked for the best weapons for United States fighters and the largest increase in the United States military budget in two decades. He also demanded that "all nations should know: America will do what is necessary to ensure our nation's security". In the context of his State of the Union address, such statements can only represent the prevalence of militarism, unilateralism and the logic of might makes right in the mentality of the United States official establishment. This attitude, which is the negation of the very foundations of the United Nations, represents a grave threat to global peace and security, and can provide an extremely dangerous precedent of international relations on the basis of might.

In contrast, the weapon of choice for the Iranian people is the strength of our argument, greater effort for dialogue and enhancing understanding, and making further sacrifices in the cause of freedom and justice. The people of Iran have demonstrated that they will not succumb to pressure, nor will they accept interference in their domestic affairs or insults against their institutions emanating from the Constitution, which provides that the affairs of the country must be administered on the basis of public opinion expressed by the means of direct or indirect elections. That should not be difficult for the United States to understand in the light of its own constitutional electoral process, and particularly the events of November and December 2000.

(*Signed*) Kamal **Kharrazi**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (i)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement by the President of the Republic of Belarus on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the admission of Belarus to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21 (i).

(*Signed*) Sergei **Ling**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-24243 (E) 070202 070202

Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the President of the Republic of Belarus on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the admission of Belarus to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The decision adopted 10 years ago concerning the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opened a new phase in the recent foreign policy history of independent and sovereign Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus, having consciously chosen the path of democratic development, acceded to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and other important CSCE documents, and declared its commitment to the ideas and fundamental principles contained in them.

After becoming a full participating State of CSCE, our country became actively involved in efforts to strengthen peace and cooperation on the European continent. Belarus supported the organizational and operational development of CSCE and its transformation into a key regional organization with a comprehensive system of institutions and mechanisms and a sphere of responsibility that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok and encompasses all dimensions of security.

Throughout the past 10 years, the Republic of Belarus has put forward initiatives designed to strengthen the authority and role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in crisis prevention, conflict settlement and the post-conflict restoration of peace and trust.

In 1992, on the initiative of the Republic of Belarus, the OSCE Minsk Group was established to settle the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Belarus — the first country to reject unilaterally the stationing of nuclear weapons in its territory — advocated broadening the sphere of activity of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe by including on its list of priorities the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe. Representatives of Belarus have made an important contribution to strengthening stability and security in the OSCE region by participating in the organization's field missions.

The constructive and responsible approach of Belarus to the drafting and adoption of the most important documents of recent years — the Charter for European Security and the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (Istanbul, 1999) and the Bucharest decisions on combating terrorism and strengthening political dialogue in OSCE — demonstrates the importance Belarus attaches to participating in this pan-European organization and making it the basis of the European security architecture in the twenty-first century.

Belarus welcomes the current intensive efforts of the Chairman-in-Office to resolve the recent problems in the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, strengthen political dialogue and take into account the opinions of all participating States, and to move towards comprehensive consideration of all the most topical issues in pan-European development.

The OSCE participating States today face a host of tasks and challenges which no single State will be able to address on its own. It is vital to strengthen our cooperation in the quest for joint responses to the challenges presented by terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration and the illegal proliferation of weapons. We are particularly interested in further strengthening the organization's economic and ecological potential.

Given the active approach being taken by the Chairman-in-Office, the Republic of Belarus expects that specific steps will also be taken this year to reform OSCE and increase its effectiveness, so that it can finally become a fully fledged international organization which is a subject of international law.

Belarus will continue consistently to support the strengthening of all the components of comprehensive and indivisible security in the OSCE area, in full accordance with the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and other basic OSCE documents, and will remain a reliable and responsible partner in pan-European dialogue, committed to universal values.

Minsk, 1 February 2002

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 119 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, dated 2 February 2002, in which it expressed its rejection and condemnation of the procedure of abducting innocent people (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 119 and 166 entitled "Human rights questions and measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-24289 (E) 060202 060202

Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Qatar rejects and condemns the abduction of innocent people

Qatar has rejected and condemned the practice of abducting and mistreating innocent people — for any reason whatever — as incompatible with morality and humanitarian principles. In a statement to the Qatar News Agency on Saturday, 2 February 2002, an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed condemnation of this practice, especially the targeting of journalists and other media representatives performing their professional duties. He expressed concern and regret at the recent detention of a correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal* and voiced the hope that he would be released as soon as possible.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 1 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Having read the legal opinion rendered on 29 January 2002 by Mr. Hans Corell, the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, in response to a letter addressed to him by the Security Council on 13 November 2001 on "the legality in the context of international law, including relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, and agreements concerning Western Sahara, of actions allegedly taken by the Moroccan authorities consisting in the offering and signing of contracts with foreign companies for the exploration of mineral resources in Western Sahara", and pending any action that may be decided by the Council on this matter, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

1. My delegation, which does not have precise information on the clauses and purposes of the above-mentioned contracts, nonetheless takes note of the conclusions of the Legal Counsel and, in particular, the recognition in paragraph 25 that, in the case in question, the contracts are for reconnaissance and evaluation, and that if further exploration and exploitation activities were to proceed in disregard of the interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara, they would be in violation of the principles of international law applicable to mineral resource activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

2. My delegation also takes note of the content of paragraph 6 of the legal opinion, which appropriately and clearly recalls that the Madrid Agreement did not transfer sovereignty over the Territory, nor did it confer upon any of the signatories the status of an administering Power, nor did it affect the international status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

My delegation also takes note of the reaffirmation, in paragraph 7 of the legal opinion, that the Kingdom of Morocco is not listed as the administering Power of the Territory of Western Sahara in the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and has, therefore, not transmitted information on the Territory in

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accordance with Article 73 (e) of the Charter of the United Nations, as it would have been obliged to do if it had been recognized as the administering Power.

My delegation, which has had occasion in the past to call the Secretariat's attention to the improper use, in the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council, of the expression "administering Power" in relation to the Kingdom of Morocco, trusts that the Secretariat will henceforth comply with the legal opinion of 29 January 2002 and no longer refer to Morocco as the "administering Power".

My delegation, which reserves the right to return to other aspects of the legal opinion after the Security Council has considered it, would be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/810–S/2002/145

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 February 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 74 (g), (h), (q) and (w)
General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them; consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons; small arms

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 1 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Chairperson's summary of the Tokyo Follow-up Meeting of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, entitled "Assessing the outcome of the United Nations Conference and looking ahead to implement the Programme of Action", held at Tokyo from 23 to 25 January 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (g), (h), (q) and (w), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 1 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Chairperson's summary of the Tokyo Follow-up Meeting of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

The Tokyo Follow-up Meeting of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held from 23 to 25 January 2002 at the invitation of the Government of Japan. Forty-seven representatives from 32 Governments as well as 32 individuals representing various organizations and research institutes participated. (A list of participants is contained in appendix II.)

The objective of the Follow-up Meeting was to sustain the momentum of the United Nations Conference and to give the participants a first-hand opportunity to assess the outcome of the Conference and to consider ways to vigorously implement the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference.

The participants in the Meeting considered that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 that took place between the United Nations Conference and the Tokyo Follow-up Meeting had the effect of making the issues of small arms and light weapons even more relevant, since the problems of terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, regional conflicts and the weapons used in such conflicts are closely linked and the international community must make greater efforts to deal with such new challenges.

The Meeting proved to be very timely and useful, and achieved its objectives. Most of the participants reiterated the need to sustain momentum of the Conference and to take active initiatives at all levels to implement the Programme of Action. All the keynote presentations were valuable and enlightening, and the exchanges of views that followed were stimulating and productive. The outline of the Meeting and some of the many salient points raised and discussed during the sessions are summarized below. Mr. M. Donowaki, special assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, served as the chairperson of most of the sessions.

At the opening session, a message from Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, was introduced; subsequently, the Meeting was addressed by Mr. Seiken Sugiura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Camilo Reyes, President of the Conference and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and Mr. Carlos dos Santos, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations.

In session 1, under the theme "Assessment of the United Nations Conference", keynote presentations were made by Chairperson Mitsuro Donowaki, Special Assistant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Camilo Reyes Rodriguez, President of the United Nations Conference, João Honwana, Secretary of the United Nations Conference and Chief of the Conventional Branch of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, and Keith Krause, Programme Director of the Small Arms Survey, Geneva, followed by a general exchange of views.

In the discussion there was broad agreement on the value of the United Nations Conference and the Programme of Action as a legitimization of the various activities related to the issue of small arms and light weapons and the recognition of its importance. Although some participants thought that the Programme of Action did not go far enough, all agreed that it was a valuable first step. Moreover, there was broad agreement that the Programme of Action was a common basis from which different States and regions could move forward at a speed appropriate to their desires, needs and capacities. The Programme of Action empowers States and regions to decide what aspects of the issue to prioritize.

In session 2, under the theme "Exchange of views on the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference" keynote presentations were made by Ana Maria Sampaio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Denis Chouinard of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, Fu Chong of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, C. Edward Peartree, Senior Policy Expert on Small Arms, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State of the United States of America; Antonio Cosano Perez, Ambassador-at-Large for International Security Affairs of Spain, on behalf of the European Union; and Ambassador Pasi Patokallio of Finland, followed by a general exchange of views. The participants endorsed the approach of Mr. Reyes in highlighting a range of measures that could — and should — be taken immediately by States without requiring legislative procedures, for example, establishing national points of contact and designating national coordinating agencies for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and starting record-keeping on small arms and light weapons. The United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs is also empowered to collect and circulate such data and information provided by States. It was also noted that some measures were more relevant than others to particular regions — for example, in relation to the concerns of South-East Asia about transnational organized crime — and that this would determine implementation priorities.

During the discussion there was a very encouraging exchange of information, giving an early indication of the initiatives which were being undertaken, both regionally and nationally, to implement and advance the Programme of Action. Participants agreed that there were a large number of such initiatives under way, particularly in Latin America and Africa, and that this was a positive aid to speedy implementation of national measures.

In session 3, under the theme "Exports to non-State actors", keynote presentations were made by Ambassador dos Santos, C. Edward Peartree of the United States Department of State and Peggy Mason of Canada, followed by an interesting and informative discussion of the issue. This was a topic on which the positions of participating States at the United Nations Conference had been sharply divided.

Although these divisions remained, the discussion was constructive and several potential avenues for future work to bridge the divides were suggested. For example, Ambassador dos Santos highlighted the fact that effective implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly of its section II, paragraph 11, would make it much more difficult for non-State actors to obtain small arms and light weapons. Some participants suggested that the issue might be resolved through the efforts for a clearer formulation of the export criteria of the Programme of Action in the follow-up process, while others thought that its recognition as a matter of principle

might still be needed. Mr. Peartree agreed with other participants that disagreements on the issue should not be allowed to interfere with the implementation of the Programme of Action, which was the key priority, but he stated United States concerns about the failure to consider exceptional circumstances under which arms supplies to non-State actors would be necessary. He also noted that the United States favoured an alternative conceptualization, differentiating between responsible and irresponsible end-users. Ms. Mason suggested that a fruitful route for resolving the issue would be to look at international law and how it could be used to support a constructive interpretation of section II, paragraph 11. The establishment of a group of governmental experts for that purpose might be a way forward. The session proved to be the start of a constructive dialogue and it was agreed that the dialogue should be continued at future similar meetings.

In session 4, under the theme "International assistance and cooperation", keynote presentations were made by Yoshihumi Okamura, Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (who also chaired the session); Owen Greene of the University of Bradford, United Kingdom; Samuel Hinga Norman, Deputy Minister of Defence of Sierra Leone; El Ghassim Wane, Acting Deputy Head of the Organization of African Unity Conflict Management Centre; Takuto Kubo of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; and Sukehiro Hasegawa, Director of the Tokyo office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), followed by a general exchange of views.

The session acknowledged the path-breaking initiative by the Government of Japan to implement an "action-oriented disarmament initiative". In the general discussion it was pointed out that some of the most affected and least developed countries lacked not only the capacity to implement the Programme of Action, but also sufficient knowledge about it. There was a discussion of the problems of small arms and light weapons in countries such as Cambodia in South-East Asia, Sierra Leone in Africa, and Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Europe. There was agreement as to the key role of development in providing incentives for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and recognition that the order in which those activities were undertaken might vary in order to meet local needs and conditions, for example, in Afghanistan. A key requirement was to make weapons less relevant to the local community, and this might require: providing security on the ground, security sector reform and providing people with a livelihood.

The session also included specific consideration of the needs of Afghanistan in the aftermath of the conflict there and the potential problem of the small arms and light weapons left in the region. The relationship between development and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is relevant to the process beginning to get under way in Afghanistan, where priorities include: assisting the Interim Administration/Government in assessing the problem of small arms and light weapons; developing a strategy, policy and realistic action plan for small arms reduction in Afghanistan; creating opportunities for legal and sustainable livelihoods to reduce the demand for arms; collection and disposal of small arms and light weapons made redundant by peace-building and security sector reform processes; developing community approaches and awareness of small arms and light weapons collection processes; building capacity to control illicit flows of small arms and light weapons through strengthening of border controls and regional cooperation;

carrying out public awareness campaigns through visible destruction of initially collected small arms and light weapons to build public confidence; empowering civil society organizations to address the problem of small arms and light weapons and violence at the community level; strengthening border controls and regional cooperation in curtailing illicit flows of small arms and light weapons. UNDP expressed its readiness to work closely with the countries concerned on these priorities. In the discussion, concerns were expressed that the resources being channelled to Afghanistan might mean that less money would be made available elsewhere. However, as one participant noted, it was not always money that was required; shared expertise could be of equal value and that was a resource that even poor countries could share. South-South cooperation, particularly in terms of human resources, was very valuable.

In session 5, under the theme "Cooperation between governmental and non-governmental sectors", keynote presentations were made by Nobuhiko Suto of Interband, Paul Eavis of Saferworld, Eugenia Piza-Lopez of International Alert, Kentaro Genma, Project Adviser, Japanese Government Research on Small Arms Issues in Cambodia, and Virginia Gamba of Safer Africa, followed by a general exchange of views. The session produced very rich accounts of activities being undertaken between civil society, Governments and regional organizations in a number of regions and States. Important ideas were introduced, such as a "safety net" approach to dealing with ex-combatants and their families in carrying out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration projects. It was suggested that civil society could effectively assist Governments in promoting solutions to small arms and light weapons issues in a number of ways: policy formulation, action-oriented research, implementation and monitoring. Concerns were expressed that in some countries and regions scepticism remained on the part of Governments with regard to the role of NGOs and civil society. It was also noted that in some cases there needed to be greater coordination between NGO groups and increased accountability and transparency of both NGOs and Governments.

Appendix I

Programme of work

Wednesday, 23 January 2002

9.30-10 a.m.	**Registration**	
10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	**Opening session**	Mr. Seiken Sugiura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
		Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez, President, United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.
		Mr. Carlos dos Santos, Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations.
	Session 1	*Theme: Assessment of the United Nations Conference*
		Chairperson: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
		Keynote speakers
		Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki
		Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez
		Mr. João Bernardo Honwana, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and Chief, Conventional Arms Branch, Department for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations.
		Dr. Keith Krause, Programme Director, Small Arms Survey, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva.
		Discussion
2-5 p.m.	**Session 2**	*Theme: Exchange of views on the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference*
		Chairperson: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki
		Keynote speakers
		Ms. Anna Maria Sampaio (Brazil), Head, Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies Division, Ministry of External Relations.
		Mr. Denis Chouinard (Canada), Deputy Director, International Security Research and Outreach Programme, Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

		Mr. Fu Chong (China), Counsellor, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. C. Edward Peartree (United States of America), Senior Policy Expert on Small Arms, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State. Mr. Antonio Cosano Perez (European Union), Ambassador-at-Large for International Security Affairs. Mr. Pasi Patokallio (Finland), Ambassador of Finland to Israel and Cyprus. Discussion
1.30-8 p.m.		Reception hosted by Mr. Seiken Sugiura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
Thursday, 24 January 2002		
10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	**Session 3**	*Theme: Exports to non-State actors* *Chairperson*: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki *Keynote speakers* Mr. Carlos dos Santos, Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations. Mr. C. Edward Peartree (United States of America), Senior Policy Expert on Small Arms, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State. Ms. Peggy Mason (Canada), Ambassador. Discussion
2-5 p.m.	**Session 4**	*Theme: International assistance and cooperation* *Chairperson*: Mr. Yoshihumi Okamura, Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs *Keynote speakers* Mr. Yoshihumi Okamura (Japan), Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Owen Greene, Senior Lecturer, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, United Kingdom. Mr. Samuel Hinga Norman (Sierra Leone), Deputy Minister of Defence. Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa (UNDP), Director, UNDP Tokyo office.

		Mr. El Ghassim Wane (OAU), Acting Deputy Head, OAU Conflict Management Centre. Mr. Takuto Kubo (UNMIK), Skendaraj/Srbica Municipality, Assistant Civil Affairs Officer. Discussion
Friday, 25 January 2002		
9.30 a.m.	**Session 5**	*Theme: Cooperation between governmental and non-governmental sectors* *Chairperson*: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki *Keynote speakers* Mr. Nobuhiko Suto, Interband, member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Paul Eavis, Director, Saferworld, United Kingdom. Ms. Eugenia Piza-Lopez, Head, Policy and Advocacy Department, International Alert, United Kingdom. Mr. Kentaro Genma, Project Adviser, Japanese Government Research on Small Arms Issues in Cambodia. Ms. Virginia Gamba, Director, International Interactions, of Safer Africa, South Africa. Discussion
Noon	**Session 6**	*Closing session and wrap-up of the Meeting* *Chairpersons*: Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki Mr. Seiken Sugiura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Appendix II

List of participants

A. Member States and others

Australia

Mr. Jeff Robinson, Counsellor, Embassy of Australia in Japan

Belgium

Ms. Marie-France Andre, Head, Department Weapons Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Brazil

Ms. Ana Maria Sampaio, Head, Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies Division, Ministry of External Relations

Mr. Samuel Bueno, First Secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Japan

Cambodia

Lt. Gen. King Samnang, Deputy Director General, Cambodian National Police

Canada

Mr. Denis Chouinard, Deputy Director and Head of International Security Research and Outreach Programme, Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

China

Mr. Fu Chong, Counsellor, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Egypt

H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Ambassador, Embassy of Egypt in Japan

Mr. Ashraf Sultan, Second Secretary, Embassy of Egypt in Japan

Finland

H.E. Mr. Pasi Patokallio, Ambassador of Finland to Israel and Cyprus

France

Mr. Etienne Bosquillon de Jenlis, Controleur général des armees, Ministère de la défense

Mr. Graham Paul, Political Counsellor, Embassy of France in Japan

Mr. Casabonne Masonnave, First Secretary, Embassy of France in Japan

Mr. Mathien Léfébure, Attaché, Embassy of France in Japan

India

Mr. Ramesh Chander, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Japan

Mr. C. Rajashekar, Embassy of India in Japan

Mr. T. Armstrong Changsam, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Japan

Indonesia

Mr. Abdurrahman Moh. Fachir, Deputy Director for Political and Security Affairs, Directorate of International Organizations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Israel

Mr. Alon Bar, Minister-Counsellor, Egypt Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Dan Arbell, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Chief, Embassy of Israel in Japan

Jordan

Dr. Atef Odibat, Director, Regional Human Security Centre, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy

Kenya

Ms. Sharon Konchellah, Assistant Secretary in International Organizations Conferences and Small Arms Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Ms. Mary Donde Odinga, Ambassador, Embassy of Kenya in Japan

Mali

H.E. M. Nakounte Diakite, Ambassadeur, Directeur des affaires politiques au Ministère des affaires étrangeres et des Maliens de l'exterieur

Mexico

Mr. Alejandro Negrin, Deputy Director to the General Directorate of the United Nations System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

New Zealand

Ms. Maria Borshevsky, Second Secretary, Embassy of New Zealand in Japan

Niger

Colonel Maimoctar Kassouma, Président, Commission nationale pour la collecte et le controles des armes illicites

Nigeria

Mr. Simeon Adewale Adekanye, Foreign Service Officer Special Grade, and Director, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Oseimiegha Otiotio, Ambassador, Embassy of Nigeria in Japan

Mr. Godwin Owoicho Agamah, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Nigeria in Japan

Norway

H.E. Mr. Leif Arne Ulland, Ambassador, Special Adviser on Arms Control and Disarmament, Department of Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Philippines

Mr. Robert O. Ferrer, Foreign Service Officer, Director, Office of United Nations and International Organizations

Russian Federation

Mr. Alexey M. Ovchinnikov, First Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Japan

Sierra Leone

H.E. Mr. Samuel Hinga Norman, Deputy Minister of Defence

Mr. Dennis Kpawoh Vandi, Deputy Director of Defence, Ministry of Defence

South Africa

Mr. David Robin Wensley, Deputy Director, Regional Arms Matters

Spain

H.E. Mr. Antonio Cosano Perez, Ambassador-at-Large for International Security Affairs

Mr. Francisco Benitez, First Secretary, Embassy of Spain in Japan

Sweden

Mr. Joakim Vaverka, Desk Officer, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Section, Department for Global Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Switzerland

Mr. Stefano Toscano, Political Division IV, Section for Peace and Human Security, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Trpe Stojanovski, Counsellor, Department for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of the Interior

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ms. Geradine O'Callaghan, Senior Adviser, Arms Control, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, Department for International Development

Mr. Andrew Wood, Assistant Director/Head, Export Control Policy, Proliferation and Arms Control Secretariat, Ministry of Defence

Mr. Simon N. Brown, Second Secretary, Embassy of United Kingdom in Japan

United States of America

Mr. C. Edward Peartree, Senior Policy Expert on Small Arms, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State

European Union

Mr. Cornelis Keijzer, First Secretary, Delegation of the European Commission in Japan

Ms. Helene Strom, Delegation of the European Commission in Japan

B. Representatives of international and regional organizations

H.E. Mr. Camilo Reyes Rodriguez

President, United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

H.E. Mr. Carlos dos Santos

Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations

Mr. João Bernardo Honwana

Chief, Conventional Arms Branch, Department for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Mr. Tsutomu Ishiguri

Director, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Jean Jacques Purusi Sadiki

Chargé de bureau, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Mr. Alves Gasparini

Director, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa

Director, UNDP, Tokyo office

Mr. Nils Kastberg

Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF

Ms. Sae-ryo Kim, Assistant Programme Officer, UNICEF, Tokyo

Mr. El Ghassim Wane

Acting Deputy Head, OAU Conflict Management Centre

C. Experts and representatives of NGOs

Dr. W. James Arputharaj

Executive Director, South Asia Partnership International

Mr. Paul Eavis

Director, Saferworld, United Kingdom

Ms. Virginia Gamba

Director, International Interactions of Safer Africa, South Africa

Mr. Kentaro Genma

Project Adviser, Japanese Government Researcher on Small Arms Issues in Cambodia

Dr. Owen Greene

Senior Lecturer, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, United Kingdom

Dr. Keith Krause

Programme Director, Small Arms Survey, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Mr. Takuto Kubo

Skendaraj/Srbica Municipality, Assistant Civil Affairs Officer, UNMIK

H.E. Ms. Peggy Mason

Ambassador of Canada

Ms. Eugenia Piza Lopez

Head, Policy and Advocacy Department, International Alert, United Kingdom

Mr. Neb Sinthay

Executive Coordinator, Working Group for Weapons Reduction, Cambodia

Dr. Joanna Spear

Director, Graduate Research Programme, Department of War Studies, University of London

D. Experts and representatives of Japanese NGOs

Mr. Nobuhiko Suto

Interband, Member of the House of Representatives

Mr. Kuniaki Asomura

Executive Director, The Japan Center for Preventive Diplomacy

Mr. Yoshitomo Tanaka

Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Tsutomu Arai

Senior Research Fellow and Planning Director, Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Japan Institute of International Affairs

E. Government of Japan

H.E. Mr. Seiken Sugiura

Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki

Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yuji Miyamoto

Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Takashi Osanai

Deputy Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yoshibumi Okamura

Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Kenichiro Tanaka

Desk Officer, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Ms. Eri Komukai, Associate Specialist, Global Issues Division, Planning and Evaluation Department

Ms. Yuko, Dohi

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General Assembly
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Agenda items 25, 28, 35, 39, 41, 56, 84, 95, 96, 97, 103 and 119

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Towards global partnerships

Question of Palestine

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sectoral policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Human rights questions

Letter dated 5 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at the World Economic Forum, held in New York during the period 31 January to 4 February 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 25, 28, 35, 39, 41, 56, 84, 95, 96, 97, 103 and 119, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

The Speech of His Highness

Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

The Amir of the State of Qatar

World Economic Forum
New York

31st of January – 4th of February 2002

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to have participated in the sessions of this international forum and to have followed its invaluable discussions and deliberations. I commend all those who contributed to organizing and running these sessions. I would also like to extend special thanks to Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and President of the World Economic Forum for his efforts in making this meeting a success.

Our gathering this year in New York has a significant bearing on the future of the world. It also emphasizes the necessity of exchanging views on the crises facing the world and the challenges besetting its people.

Having heard a number of important opinions, we are still looking for the effective cure and the required formula to tackle the problems and conflicts of our world, and hence, proceed vigorously to build a new community that is more secure, just and prosperous.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we wish to move from dialogue and discussions to effective cooperation in the building of an encompassing, global family, we have to address a number of vital issues.

It is my belief that the prosperity and security we seek, cannot be realized unless fair positions are adopted vis-a-vis the crucial problems presently facing the world.

It is essential that we settle the various chronic regional conflicts and crises that are draining energies in various parts of the world. It is only when international relations are based on the principles of justice, mutual respect and common interest, that we can envisage the possibility of establishing a new global community, united and all inclusive where the values of justice, freedom and democracy prevail and the diversity of cultures and equality of opportunities are fully respected. In such a world, all feel equal in rights and obligations under international laws and human values.

It is equally important to stress that the distribution of wealth in the world is still unacceptably tilted in favour of a minority. The new world order must address the needs and aspirations of the developing countries whose populations constitute the great majority. There must be an effective mechanism that makes it possible for these countries (especially the least developed ones) to take part in shaping this order, as well as interpreting its connotations in such a manner as to enable them to reap greater benefits from it in the future. It is necessary that this order should lend special attention for the development in these countries, open up the markets for them and establish the principle of justice and fairness in dealing with them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, our world stands at a crossroads. We have to choose which direction to take. Are we going to build a new world on the basis of integration and interaction, or are we – God forbid – threatened with slipping into a world dominated by confrontation, and insurmountable conflicts?

A lot has been said during the recent past about the international community facing a clash of cultures, a conflict of religions. To some, the terrorist attacks on the United States of America last September marked the beginning of an alleged Islamic war against the West, its civilization and way of life. To others, the war against terrorism declared by the United States and its allies is a crusade against Islam and Muslims.

Both of these positions fail to bring out the essence of the problem we are facing. Neither the terrorism that took place was an expression of Islam or Arab and Muslim sentiments, nor do the current international efforts to combat terrorism constitute a western counter-campaign against Islam or Muslims. We reject these false and unjust descriptions and labels.

Just as we, as Muslims have no doubts about the need to combat terrorism, our friends in the West should have no misconception about the true nature of Islam. Nothing can better demonstrate the keenness of Muslims for co-existence among all the human beings than the Holy Quran. God has prohibited the taking of human life and held it as one of the greatest sins. He decreed that Muslims shall not abuse those who are of a different creed, but urged them strongly to be good to them as in God's holy words:

"God forbids you not,
With regard to those who fight you not for (your) Faith,
Nor drive you out
Of your homes,
From dealing kindly and justly
With them."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is high time that we focus our efforts in the Arab and Islamic world, as well as, in the third world, on the priorities and development, setting up democratic institutions and establishing systems of government respectful of the principles of law, human rights, economic freedom, and combating corruption. This is the only way for us to meet and fulfill the legitimate hopes and aspirations of our people.

In their turn, the industrial countries and societies have to contribute to this effort and provide the necessary means and conditions to help developing countries realize their ambitions. The West has to adopt more equitable positions towards the grievances of those countries. Hesitation to do so can only lead to further misunderstanding and mistrust.

If we work together to bring about just settlements for the tragic crises plaguing the Arab and Muslim peoples in Palestine, Kashmir, Chechnya and elsewhere; and if we all cooperate to alleviate the impact of poverty, hunger, disease and underdevelopment and other challenges facing many in our world, we would have actually taken the first step required for building a global family having common interests and objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We call for justice and effective participation in this international community to make it a better place for our peoples and younger generations.

Thank you all, once again, and I wish you further success and prosperity.

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

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Letter dated 25 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Final Statement of the Al-Quds Committee issued by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which met under the chairmanship of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, on 25 January 2002 at Marrakesh, Morocco (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **Bennouna**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-24673 (E) 120202 130202

Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Final Statement
of 19th Session of the Al-Quds Committee

Marrakech January 25, 2002

Upon a gracious invitation from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, chairman of Al- Quds committee, the latter held its nineteenth session in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, on Friday 11 Dul Quida 1422 (25 January 2002) to examine the serious and critical situation through which the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharref are going as a result of the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and the attempts of the Israeli Government to cripple the Palestinian authority.

The meeting recorded the forced absence of the Palestinian President His Excellency Yasser Arafat due to the arbitrary decision taken by the Israeli authorities to restrain his movements. Attending the session were their Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as the delegations of States that are members of the Committee and the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

His Majesty Mohammed VI, Chairman of Al- Quds Committee delivered an opening speech in which he stressed the solidarity of the Muslim Ummah with the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership represented by the National Palestinian Authority.

His Majesty also underlined the fact that the present difficult circumstances through which the Palestinian issue is going require adhering to realism and having a good sense of responsibility. His Majesty then appealed to the human consciousness and the international community to put an end to the sharon's arrogance and take the kind of action that would spare the region and the whole world tragedies while they can overcome them.

His Majesty also reaffirmed that the Muslim Ummah is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, one that will enable the Palestinian people to recover its legitimate rights and establish its independent state with Al-Quds Al-Shareef as its capital.

M. Farouk Kaddoumi the minister of Foreign affairs of the state of Palestine delivered the message of President Yasser Arafat to His Majesty and the heads of the delegations participating in the session.

President Arafat invited the participants to forward a clear message on behalf of the Islamic States, to the whole world exhorting it to work towards ending the war that Israel is waging against the Palestinian people, providing international protection to the Palestinian people and creating an international mechanism that would oblige Israel to abide by international legality and the signed agreements, terminate its occupation and dismantle settlements as that would constitute the ultimate guarantee for the achievement of peace and security in the region.

The members of the Committee, under the Chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, started their deliberations concerning the present situation, after which they issued the following appeal to the international community.

1- The committee commends the responsible measures taken by the Palestinian leadership as expressed in its commitment to a unilateral ceasefire.

The committee highly appreciates the self-restraint of the Palestinian Authority despite the unabated ferocious Israeli aggression directed against it and reaffirms its support to the resistance of the Palestinian people and their blessed Intifadah.

The Committee stresses that the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East was and remains the main objective of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on the basis of the United Nations resolutions and the principle of "Land for Peace".

2- The committee expresses its condemnation of the escalation with which Israel responds to the Palestinian appeasement measures, and reminds their international community that the continuation of the Israeli occupation is the cause of the explosive situation in the region as it was directed at besieging the headquarters of President Yasser Arafat, who was duly elected by the Palestinian people, and restrain his movement, demolishing houses, displacing hundreds of families, killing children and destroying the basic infrastructure and Palestinian institutions, in addition to assassinations, blockades and closures.

3-The committee reaffirms that the Islamic states are active actors of the international community and its institutions and will not remain silent.

They will use all the opportunities available within international institutions to put an end to the Israeli aggression and to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land.

4- The committee calls upon the united states, as the sponsor of the peace process, to take immediate and firm action to oblige Israel to halt its aggression against the Palestinian people, and reaffirms that Israel's behaviour is likely to trigger reactions at a time of global consensus reached in the aftermath of the criminal acts perpetrated on September 11th against innocent civilians and institutions in the United States of America. The world has indeed reached an agreement concerning the eradication of terrorism and its causes with a view to ensuring stability and security in the world.

5- The committee expressed its support to all efforts and initiatives aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees security and stability of the region, and enables the Palestinian people to enjoy all its rights including its right to establish an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al Sharref as its capital. In this connection, the Committee reiterates its opposition to any attempt by Israel to undermine the foundations of peace embodied in the principle of " Land for Peace", international legality and the agreements concluded between the National Palestinian Authority and previous Israeli governments.

6- The Committee invites the international community to assume its responsibilities vis-à-vis the serious and blatant violations against the Palestinian people, and calls upon the Security Council, in particular, to carry out its duties concerning the maintenance of international peace and security by virtue of the United Nations charter, and adopt a resolution calling for the immediate deployment of a multinational force for the protection of the Palestinian people. The council should also work towards the implementation of its resolutions so as to preserve its credibility as a United Nations Organ.

7- The Committee notes that the Israeli government has not responded to any appeal or attempt from international mediators.

It has, instead, continued to ignore the rules of international law, the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations as well as the signed agreements. The Committee is of the view that the issue must be brought back to the Security Council in order to enable this organ to assume its responsibility.

In view of the serious and explosive situation prevailing in the occupied territories, a situation that threatens peace in the whole world, it has become imperative for the international community to assume its responsibility by exercising pressure on Israel so that it halts its aggression, withdraws its forces immediately from the Palestinian zones, lifts the siege on the headquarters of the Palestinian president, and takes the necessary measures to achieve peace in the region in order to create the conditions that are conducive to the revival of the peace process and to the resumption of negotiations between the two parties without any preconditions.

All these measures should be accompanied and supported with deployment of international observers to supervise the implementation of the Mitchell's Report and Tenet's Plan, through a clearly defined mechanism and according to a precise timetable.

The Committee is convinced that the ending of the practices and illegal measures of the occupying Israeli authorities would create con ditions conducive to the return to calm, and the resumption of negotiations from the point at which they were interrupted, and would contribute to the concretization of the call of President Bush and his Secretary of State for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state in conformity with Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The committee expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, for his relentless endeavours, at the Arab, Islamic and international levels, for the support of the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al Shareef, and for convening this important session in Marrakech.

The Committee also expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Government of his Majesty and the Moroccan people for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the participating delegations.